

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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For more information, contact:

Mike Gowrylow

(360) 486-2113

Rosalynn Sumners' world championship skating medals found in safe deposit box

KENMORE, Wash., Feb. 24, 2004—Yes, Rosalynn Sumners' 1983 world championship figure skating medals are among the thousands of unclaimed properties found in abandoned safe deposit boxes and turned over to the Department of Revenue.

No, you can't bid on them during an unclaimed property auction this week because they will be returned to the Edmonds, Washington native soon. But yes, you can look at them during today's preview of thousands of other items—including baseball cards, gold coins and diamond rings—to be auctioned off Feb 25 and Feb. 26. The preview and auctions, which start at 10 a.m. and run through 4 p.m., will take place at the James G. Murphy Company's facility at 18226 68th Avenue NE in Kenmore.

This is the first unclaimed property auction since 2000. New this year is the capability to bid on these items live online at <http://www.icollectorlive.com>. An online catalog is also available for review at <http://www.murphyauction.com>.



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Like a lot of items that are sent to the state because their owners couldn't be found, the two gold medals and one silver medal from the Helsinki, Finland world championships had a strange journey to the Department of Revenue. Unlike some of the unclaimed property the Department receives, it wasn't hard to figure out who owned the world championship medals.

When contacted, Sumners was pleased to hear that her long-lost medals had been found, but she wasn't surprised.

"I always had faith that they would show up again sooner or later," she said by telephone. "Now I will have something to display next to my silver medal (from the 1984 winter Olympics)."

Sumners said she lent the three missing medals to a local Edmonds bank many years ago so the bank could display them in their lobby. The years went by, and when Sumners finally stopped by the bank to see about her medals, they were gone. The bank had changed hands at least once, and nobody was sure what had become of the medals.

Several years passed, and eventually the current bank owner delivered the contents to the Department as required by law. The owner was listed as unknown.

But she wasn't unknown for long. Finders for the Department of Revenue's Unclaimed Property Department checked the Internet for the winner of those medals, then contacted Sumners to arrange to have them returned. Sumners said she has been busy traveling around the country doing sports commentaries and sponsoring products, but she does plan to pick up her medals soon.

While the Department was able to return \$14.2 million in unclaimed property to 41,504 individuals last year, the identities of some owners can't be determined, and by law the state has to auction items after five years. The proceeds from the auction are available to claimants indefinitely.

For more information on the auction, please visit

<http://www.dor.wa.gov/Content/News/featStories/UCPauction-02-12-04.asp>.

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